

Kelly M. Bowlin
1407 University Avenue
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

October 30, 2000

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Re: docket number 98P-0151/CP1
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20785

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my concern for downed cattle and hogs, animals that arrive at stockyards too diseased or badly injured to stand or walk unassisted.

I believe the practice of processing these unfortunate animals poses a problem for at least two reasons. The first reason is the risk to human health. Introducing meat from downed animals into the human food chain may pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination. Additionally, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or "Mad Cow Disease", a disease which has been linked to fatal human illness.

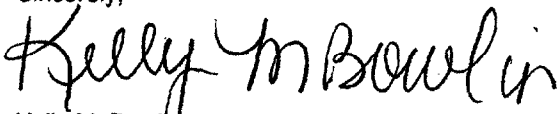
A second problem concerns the humane treatment of the animals. Downed animals are left where they are lying until it is convenient to move them to slaughter, often the next day. They are then frequently pulled with a chain or pushed with heavy equipment, resulting in injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments. This obviously prolongs and increases their distress and pain.

Prohibiting the marketing of these suffering animals will cause no undue economic hardship, since they comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered. Removing the monetary value of injured cattle and hogs may also help protect the animals, since industry experts have estimated that 90% of problems leading to downed animals can be prevented with improved care and handling.

Please grant Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals - docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Thank you so much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Kelly M. Bowlin

98P-0151

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